

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 DEAE-00 CTME-00 IO-13
/034 W

-----123535 280557Z /11

R 280502Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0054

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STATE FOR S/NM

EO 11652:NA
TAGS: SNAR, TH
SUBJECT: FY 1978 INC FINDING FOR ONCB CROP SUBSTITUTION
PROGRAM

REF A) BANGKOK 24452 B) BANGKOK 9112 C) BANGKOK 34346
D) BANGKOK 34342

SUMMARY: EMBASSY ENGAGED IN FINAL PHASE OF NEGOTIATION
WITH ONCB ON SUBJECT CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM AND
EXPECTS TO SIGN PROJECT AGREEMENT FOR DOL.120,000
BEFORE END OF CURRENT FY1978 BUDGETARY CYCLE END
SUMMARY.

1. PROPOSAL FOR INITIAL RTG ADMINISTERED NARCOTICS
CROP SUBSTITUTION EFFORT OUTLINED IN REFS (A) - (D)
HAS ADVANCED TO STAGE WHERE EMBASSY CONSIDERS MODEST
CONTRIBUTION OF INC FUNDS LIKELY TO HAVE POSITIVE
INFLUENCE IN HELPING TO GET AN OPERATIONAL CROP
REPLACEMENT PROGRAM UNDERWAY.

2. A WORKPLAN FOR THE "PREPARATION STAGE OF THE
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INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE OPIUM-PRODUCING
AREA OF THE MAE CHAEM WATERSHED, CHIANG MAI PROVINCE"
HAS BEEN DEVISED WHICH CALLS FOR A SERIES OF PREIM-
PLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES COVERING THE APPROXIMATE
TIMEFRAME AS FOLLOWS:

A. FEASIBILITY STUDIES (SEPTEMBER 1978 -

FEBRUARY 1979)

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONCB NORTHERN NARCOTICS CONTROL
CENTER (OCTOBER 1978 - FEBRUARY 1979);
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C. TRAINING AND PREPARATION OF PLANT MATERIALS
(SEPTEMBER 1978 - JUNE 1979)

TOTAL PREPARATION STAGE BUDGET:

FIELD SURVEYS	US DOLS.104,200
NORTHERN NARCOTICS CONTROL CENTER ESTABLISHMENT	120,000
TRAINING AND PLANT MATERIALS	113,750
- TOTAL:	337,950

3. EMBASSY SUPPORTS TOTAL PROGRAM COST AS SHOWN
ABOVE. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF IMPENDING FY78
CLOSING WE REQUEST 120,000 THIS FY78 AND REQUEST
RESERVATION OF REMAINING US DOLS.217,950 IN FY79.

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4. A. FEASIBILITY STUDIES

ESSENTIAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC, SOIL CLASSIFICATION
AND LAND USE SURVEYS WILL BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN FIVE
PRE-SELECTED, OPIUM-PRODUCING HILLTRIBE VILLAGES WITHIN
THE MAE CHAEM AREA BY SURVEY TEAMS FROM THAI PUBLIC
WELFARE, FORESTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENTS
UNDER SUPERVISION OF ONCB. SURVEY RESULTS WILL BE
USED BY ONCB TO FORMULATE DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN
FOR UPCOMING FIVE YEAR PERIOD, SPECIFYING THE
MAGNITUDE AND SCOPE OF DEVELOPMENT WORK TO BE
UNDERTAKEN, LOCATION AND SCHEDULING OF SUB-PROJECT
ACTIVITIES AND THE ROLE AND FUNCTION OF OPERATIONAL
AGENCIES CONCERNED. ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION WILL BEGIN
NOT LATER THAN JULY 1979.

B. ESTABLISHMENT OF NORTHERN NARCOTICS CONTROL CENTER

ONCB WILL ESTABLISH REGIONAL OFFICE AT CHIANG
MAI EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1978 WHICH WILL BE FULLY STAFFED
AND OPERATIONAL BY FEBRUARY 1979. INITIALLY, NORTHERN
NARCOTICS CONTROL CENTER (NNCC) WILL COORDINATE ACTIVITIES

CONNECTED WITH FIELD SURVEYS, PREPARATION OF OPERATIONAL
PLAN AND FOLLOW-ON IMPLEMENTATION. ULTIMATELY, NNCC
WILL ASSUME FULL COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL
NARCOTICS PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.
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C. TRAINING AND PREPARATION OF PLANT MATERIALS
TRAINING OF VILLAGE AGRICULTURE EXTENSION
AGENTS (10 INITIALLY), ACQUISITION OF CROP PLANT

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PROPAGATION MATERIALS AND PREPARATION OF CROP DEMON-
STRATION PLOTS IN THE FIVE SELECTED KEY VILLAGES WILL
COMMENCE IN OCTOBER 1978.

BY THE END OF JUNE 1979 ALL PREIMPLEMENTATION
PLANNING AND PREPARATION WILL BE COMPLETED AND ACTUAL
IMPLEMENTATION READY TO BEGIN EFFECTIVE JULY 1979.
5. UNDERLYING PROPOSAL IS THE ONCB/EMBASSY INTENT
TO BUILD UPON EXPERIENCE AND SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY THAI/
U.N.P.D.A.C. PILOT PROJECT ALONG WITH RESULTS OF SUB-
STANTIAL USDA-SUPPORTED HIGHLAND CROP RESEARCH PROGRAM.
CROP/PLANT MATERIALS PROPOSED FOR INITIAL INTRODUCTION
WILL BE PRE-TESTED VARIETIES FOR WHICH COMMERCIAL
OUTLETS ALREADY EXIST OR HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED.

6. IN THE OPINION OF EMBASSY BANGKOK PRESENT WORK
PLAN IS PROBABLY THE LIMIT OF ONCB PLANNING CAPABILITY.
DESPITE DELAYS, SLIPPAGES OR OTHER DEVIATIONS LIKELY
FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED SCHEDULE, WE BELIEVE IT DOES
REPRESENT A WORKABLE APPROACH WITHIN THE THAI CONTEXT
AND WORTHY OF U.S. SUPPORT. FURTHERMORE, DEVELOPMENT
OF A THAI PLAN, ALTHOUGH SHORT OF THE MASTER PLAN,

REQUESTED EARLIER, SHOULD ELICIT OTHER DONOR SUPPORT
PRESENTLY HINDERED FOR LACK OF RTG PLANNING GUIDANCE.

7. EMBASSY DESIRES APPROVAL TO EXECUTE PROAG UPON
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RECEIPT OF ALLOTMENT. ABROMOWITZ

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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